

**Flood Incident  
Incident Annex VI  
Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**

**LEAD AGENCY:** Division of Emergency Management

**SUPPORTING AGENCIES:** Governor's Office, Human Services, Labor & Employment, Military and Veteran Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Health and Environment, Public Safety, Transportation, Red Cross, Salvation Army, COVOAD, and Private Sector

**I. PURPOSE**

This incident annex has been prepared to ~~ensure~~ facilitate a coordinated response and assign responsibilities by state agencies to requests from local jurisdictions to reduce potential loss of life and to quickly restore essential services following a flood.

**II. POLICIES**

Following the issuance of a local emergency declaration, the Governor may issue a state declaration, which may make response and recovery funding available as well as other state resources.

**III. SITUATION**

- A. Floods have caused the largest disasters in Colorado history. The three parameters of most concern for flood planning are: flash floods; dam failures; water elevation in relation to topography and structures and the velocity of the moving water.
- B. Three types of flooding are likely to occur: Flash: Quickly rising streams after heavy rain or rapid snowmelt or a combination of both. Dam Failure: Downstream flooding due to the collapse or failure of an impoundment structure. There are ~~4824~~ over 2,000 dams in Colorado, of these 628 are classed as High Hazard (Class 1) or Significant Hazard (Class 2). Riverine: Periodic over-bank flow of rivers and streams.
- C. Steep topography increases runoff water velocity and debris flow. Lack of vegetation, due to drought or wildfire, to slow runoff is another factor. Apart from snowmelt, mountain areas suffer from flooding associated with ice jams. In the spring, ice breaks away and then collects at constriction points in rivers and streams (i.e., bends, shallows, areas of decreasing slope, and bridges); by trapping water behind it and then later giving way, an ice jam increases flood levels both upstream and downstream.
- D. Secondary effects of flooding could include: dam failures, landslides, power disruption, subsidence, transportation delays, hazardous materials, health issues, vector control, and others.

- E. A flood event will likely have the largest uninsured damage impact of any type of natural disaster. Homeowners or business owner's insurance policies do not usually cover flooding; it must be purchased separately as a special flood insurance policy. Although the program is widely publicized, history has shown that most people will not have this type of coverage.

#### **IV. ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. See Basic Plan
- B. This plan supports plans and procedures of the Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board and the State Engineers Office.
- C. Citizens will be advised of potential flood conditions through a variety of means, including: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) radio, Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts, standard radio announcements, TV announcements, etc.
- D. The National Weather Service (NWS) will provide weather and flood warnings. Warning time will vary with the type of event.

#### **V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. First response to a flood event will be by local responders, when the event is so large that their local resources are unable to handle it, additional assistance may be requested by through the declaration process. Such assistance, when authorized, will be provided by state agencies operating under their own authority, or as part of an effort coordinated by the Division of Emergency Management operating on behalf of the Governor. The Governor may request assistance from the federal government if the capabilities and resources of both local and state governments are exceeded.
- B. The extent of the initial response will depend on warning time, which varies with the cause of the flooding, the numbers of people affected by the flooding, and the ability of the local jurisdiction to provide assistance.

#### **VI. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Governor's Office:
  - 1. Following the state disaster statutes, make monies available through the state disaster fund or other funds to provide for basic recovery of essential services.
  - 2. Activate the Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan.
  - 3. Authorize state active duty status for use of Colorado National Guard personnel to provide lifesaving assistance, if necessary.

B. Division of Emergency Management:

1. Monitor snow pack/snowmelt conditions and weather forecasts and prepare to coordinate state assistance, as needed.
2. Maintain a list of all dams in the state and emergency preparedness plans for Class 1 and Class 2 dams.
3. Activate and staff the State Emergency Operations Center.
4. Coordinate state response to requests for assistance from local jurisdictions.
5. Maintain communications with Governor's office, other state agencies and local jurisdictions regarding the status of response and recovery efforts.

C. Department of Human Services/American Red Cross/Salvation Army

1. DHS - Administer assistance programs including Individual & Family Grants Program.
2. ARC/SA - Provide shelters and provisions for stranded people in accordance with internal procedures.

D. Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

1. When activated, provide air reconnaissance and rescue.
2. When activated, provide personnel for debris removal, search and rescue, and other assistance that may be tasked.

E. Department of Natural Resources

1. Provide hydrologists and geologists to assist in response and mitigation efforts.
2. Monitor stream flow conditions and weather forecasts and warn DEM and local jurisdictions of impending flooding.
3. Maintain a list of all dams in the state and emergency preparedness plans for Class 1 and Class 2 dams.

F. Department of Public Safety, Colorado State Patrol:

1. Maintain communications and advise dispatch of current conditions in all areas of the state - emergency reports will be relayed, as needed, to the Division of Emergency Management.
2. Establish traffic control on state highways.
3. Assist in evacuation of stranded motorists.
4. Preserve law and order.

G. Department of Transportation

1. Provide assistance by providing barricades, debris removal and road repair as directed.

2. Maintain communications and advise dispatch of current conditions in all areas of the state - these reports will be relayed, as needed, to the Division of Emergency Management.
3. Provide engineers to Damage Assessment teams.

H. Other State Agencies

Provide support as requested by the Division of Emergency Management.

- VII. ESFs that are likely to be involved in a flood emergency are: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 -- agency involvement will vary with the circumstances of each incident.